

Painting with Appositives

Painting with an **appositive** brush stroke is like having the chance to rename a noun more specifically. After a noun (or a noun phrase) in a basic sentence, you can add another noun (or noun phrase) and set it off with commas. For example, let's go back to our simple sentence about the car: *The car went to the house.* Suppose you want to be more specific about the word *car*. You can zoom in on it with a pair of commas after *car* and insert a second image. This will describe the car in a more specific way:

*The car, a **Model-T Ford**, went to the house.*

Now the reader has more specific information about the car. However, this information is not essential to the sentence. In other words, the sentence could survive without this information.

Activity 2—Appositives

For Description 1 on the next page, follow these two steps: (1) Examine the image of the soldier and create a basic sentence about him (The soldier...). (2) Then, zoom-in with commas after the word *soldier* and consider some of the nouns that might be used as a second label for *soldier* (Marine, father, veteran, renegade). Select a noun and build an appositive phrase by describing the noun with one or two descriptive words. For example, you might follow the word *soldier* with something like, "The soldier, a tired marine on his final tour of duty,..."



Name _____ Date _____

Activity 2—Appositives

Description 1: The Soldier

1) _____

Description 2: Locate an image of a face (find an interesting one) in a magazine or online and write one sentence that describes the face with an appositive

2) _____

Description 3: Think of an interesting place that you saw on television or in an advertisement. Picture the scene and write a sentence or two describing what you saw. You should use one appositive brush stroke in the description.

3) _____

